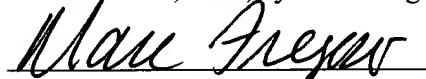


Based on the claim element similarities, it is clear that the same searching efforts must be performed and accordingly it is requested that reconsideration be given to the subject matter of claims 13-18 and that they also be examined with claims 1-11.

Attached is an Information Disclosure Statement.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this case, the undersigned attorney can be contacted at the listed telephone number.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on October 21, 2002, by Marc Fregoso



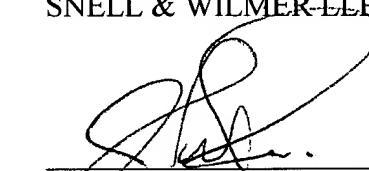
Signature

October 21, 2002

Date of Signature

Very truly yours,

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